

## JEWISH NEW YEAR

# Celebration unites Holocaust survivors, Wagner students

## Wagner College Holocaust Center aims to 'build bridges, strengthen the community'

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Wagner College celebrated Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, Sunday with Klezmer music, Jewish dancing, and traditional foods.

The room was filled with students, Holocaust survivors and community members of all ages dancing and singing together.

"Students are valorizing pre-war Jewish culture by literally dancing it out and learning some of the words and music that's so important to Judaism," said a visibly moved Lori Weintrob, director of the Wagner College Holocaust Center.

Weintrob said one of the primary goals of the center is to "bring together the Jewish community, Holocaust survivors, and students of all faiths, as well as Hillel students, to build bridges and make us all stronger as a community."

Ilya Shneyveys, a musician and Yiddish music teacher, made sure everyone was on the dance floor moving to the melodies of the Tsu Fil Duvids Klezmer Ensemble.

Emma Luxemburg, a Holocaust Center intern and Wagner College student, spoke of her powerful experience traveling throughout Poland for 10 days on a Ramah Israel Seminar, where she visited concentration camps including Auschwitz, and then spent six weeks in Israel.

In addition to Rosh Hashanah, they also celebrated Holocaust survivor Margot Capell's 98th birthday and sang "Happy Birthday" to her in Hebrew.

Wagner's Holocaust Center continues its mission to unite communities with a "Bridges for Crossing Boundaries" event



**Students, Holocaust survivors and Jewish community members dance to music provided by the Tsu Fil Duvids Klezmer Ensemble at the Rosh Hashanah lunch on Sunday. For more photos of the event, visit SILive.com.** *Shira Stoll, Staten Island Advance photos*

from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, at CANVAS Institute, 150 Victory Blvd. in Tompkinsville.

The event is billed as a look at the intersections of "Jewish & Black Experiences in

Music, Art & Film," as a means of exploring "the culture of Jewish and African refugee families, and their journey to America, past and present, as part of a larger dialogue on race, art and social responsibility."



**The Tsu Fil Duvids Klezmer Ensemble plays with a shofar, a ram's-horn trumpet used by ancient Jews in religious ceremonies.**



**Holocaust survivor George Gelb and his wife, Harriet Gelb, at the Rosh Hashanah lunch.**